

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An isolated polymer comprising chitosan bound to a glutamine residue of a polypeptide, wherein the residue is selected from a glutamine residue and a tyrosine residue.
2. (Currently amended) ~~An isolated~~ The polymer comprising chitosan bound to a of claim 1, wherein the residue is the tyrosine residue ~~of a polypeptide.~~
3. (Currently amended) The polymer of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the polypeptide is not a polypeptide that is covalently bonded to chitosan in surimi.
4. (Currently amended) The polymer of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the polypeptide is gelatine.
5. (Currently amended) The polymer of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the polypeptide is 2-5 amino acids in length.
6. (Currently amended) The polymer of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the polypeptide is 6-20 amino acids in length.
7. (Currently amended) The polymer of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the polypeptide is at least 21 amino acids in length.
8. (Currently amended) The polymer of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the polymer is chitosan covalently bonded to one or more polypeptides, a polypeptide covalently bonded to one or more chitosan, or a combination thereof.
9. (Original) The polymer of claim 8, wherein the chitosan is bound to two or more polypeptides of different types.

10. (Original) A composition comprising a polysaccharide, a polypeptide and an enzyme, wherein the enzyme is transglutaminase or tyrosinase.

11. (Currently amended) A method of making a polymer, which comprises contacting a polypeptide and a polysaccharide with a an enzyme selected from tyrosinase and transglutaminase under conditions sufficient to bind the polypeptide to the polysaccharide, wherein the polypeptide comprises at least one of a tyrosine residue for the tyrosinase enzyme and a glutamine residue for the transglutaminase enzyme.

12. (Currently amended) A The method of ~~making a polymer claim 11~~, which comprises:

contacting a the polypeptide comprising a the glutamine residue with the transglutaminase to yield a modified polypeptide; and

contacting the modified polypeptide with a the polysaccharide under conditions sufficient to bond the polysaccharide to the modified polypeptide.

13. (Currently amended) A The method of ~~making a polymer claim 11~~, which ~~comprises contacting a polypeptide and a polysaccharide with a~~ wherein the enzyme comprises the tyrosinase under conditions sufficient to bind the polypeptide to the polysaccharide, and wherein the polypeptide comprises a the tyrosine residue.

14. (Currently amended) A The method of ~~making a polymer claim 11~~, which comprises:

contacting a the polypeptide comprising a the tyrosine residue with the tyrosinase to yield a modified polypeptide; and

contacting the modified polypeptide with a the polysaccharide under conditions sufficient to bond the polysaccharide to the modified polypeptide.

15. (Currently amended) The method of ~~one of claims 10-14~~ claim 13, wherein the polypeptide is gelatine.

16. (Currently amended) The method of ~~one of claims 10-14~~ claim 13, wherein the polysaccharide is chitosan.

17. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the enzyme comprises the transglutaminase and wherein the polypeptide comprises the glutamine residue.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the polypeptide is gelatine.

19. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the polysaccharide is chitosan.

20. (New) The polymer of claim 1, wherein the residue is the glutamine residue.